

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Guilin Ma et al.

Serial No.: 10/618,317

Filed: July 11, 2003

Docket No.: 10020800-1

Title: OPTICAL CONDUIT FOR CHANNELING LIGHT ONTO A SURFACE

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed September 7, 2005. Claims 2, 9-11, and 14 have been cancelled with out prejudice. Claims 1-14 were rejected. With this Response, claims 1, 3-8, 12, and 13 have been amended. Claims 1, 3-8, 12, and 13 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims.

Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice, so this objection no longer applies.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 6 has been amended to clarify this claim.

In view of the above, claim 6 is believed to be in form for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that rejection to this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered, and that the rejection be removed and this claim be allowed.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1,2, 4, 5, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Pelka et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,637,924 in view of the Dimmick U.S. Patent No. 5,151,679.

The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Pelka et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,637,924, in view of the Dimmick U.S. Patent No. 5,151,679, and further in view of the Zimmerman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,869,206.

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The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants admitted prior art, Figures 1 and 2, in view of the Zimmerman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,869,206.

The Examiner rejected claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants admitted prior art, Figures 1 and 2, in view of the Zimmerman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,869,206, and further in view of the Dimmick U.S. Patent No. 5,151,679.

The Examiner rejected claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants admitted prior art, Figures 1 and 2, in view of the Zimmerman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,869,206, and further in view of the Dimmick U.S. Patent No. 5,151,679.

Amended independent claim 1 claims an optical conduit that includes the limitations of a reflector cup embedded at the input end of the body and surrounding the light source, wherein the reflector cup is configured to redirect light from the light source towards the output end of the body.

Amended independent claims 8 and 13 each claim an optical mouse that includes the limitations of a reflector cup embedded within the input end of the optical conduit and surrounding the light source, wherein the reflector cup is figured to redirect light from the light source towards the output end of the optical conduit.

The Examiner did not cite a reference in rejecting previous dependent claims 2, 11, and 14, and instead the Examiner took Official Notice that the limitations of these dependent claims of a reflector cup surrounding the light source, for redirecting light from the light source towards the output end of the optical conduit is well known. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request pursuant to MPEP § 2144.03 that the Examiner cite a reference to teach these limitations now included in amended independent claims 1, 8, and 13 or alternatively allow these amended independent claims.

In addition, as indicated above, amended independent claims 1, 8, and 13 all include limitations related to a reflector cup embedded within the input end of the optical conduit and surrounding an embedded light source. These limitations are not taught or suggested by the cited references.

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Furthermore, dependent claims 3-7 further define patentably distinct amended independent claim 1, and dependent claim 12 further defines patentably distinct amended independent claim 8. Therefore, these dependent claims are also believed to be allowable.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejections to claims 1, 3-8, 12, and 13, and request allowance of these claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 3-8, 12, and 13 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1, 3-8, 12, and 13 is respectfully requested.

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No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(h)(i). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Patrick G. Billig at Telephone No. (612) 573-2003, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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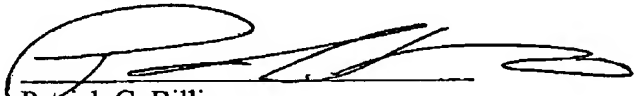
Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on this 7 day of December, 2005.

By 
Name: Patrick G. Billig